

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BERN 03534 201053Z

42

ACTION EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W

----- 087361

R 200931Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9534

UNCLAS BERN 3534

STATE FOR EUR - FLATIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS SZ

SUBJECT: INQUIRY FROM JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 5, REF. TEK:DER 60-28-15, FROM DOUGLAS ROSENTHAL, FOREIGN COMMERCE SECTION, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S ANTITRUST DIVISION. ROSENTHAL ASKS FOR INFORMATION ON SWISS WATCH INDUSTRY AND REFERS TO AN EARLIER MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH FLATIN WHICH NOT YET RECEIVED HERE. WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND INFORMATION BY CABLE.

2. WE ABLE SATISFY SOME OF ROSENTHAL'S INFORMATION NEEDS, AS SET FORTH BELOW, FROM INFORMATION ALREADY IN HAND. THOSE QUESTIONS WE CANNOT ANSWER READILY WOULD REQUIRE CONTACTING SWISS FIRMS IN QUESTION, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE PRECEDED BY DISCUSSION WITH GOS OFFICIALS; WASHINGTON AGENCIES ALREADY COGNIZANT DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN SEEKING COMMERCIAL INFORMATION FROM SWISS FIRMS. WHETHER WE COULD REASONABLE HOPE OBTAIN ANSWERS, ASSUMING GOS DOES NOT OBJECT OUR TRYING TO DO SO, DOUBTFUL.

3. ROSENTHAL POSES NINE QUESTIONS TO WHICH WE ABLE REPLY AS FOLLOWS:

QUESTION 1 - ADDRESSES ARE:

SOCIETE SUISSE POUR L'INDUSTRIE HORLOGERE SA

RUE AMI-LULLIN 4, 1200 GENEVA

SOCIETE SUISSE POUR L'INDUSTRIES HORLOGERE MANAGEMENT SEVICES

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BERN 03534 201053Z

SA

ZENTRAL STRASSE 63, 2500 BIEL
FABRIQUES D'HORLOGERIE CHS. TISSOT ET FILS SA
CHEMIN DES TOURELLES 17, 2400 LE LOCLE/NE
OMEGA LOUIS BRANDT & FRERE SA
STAEMPFLISTRASSE 95, 2500 BIEL
QUESTIONS 2, 3, AND 8 - STRUCTURE OF SSIH, ITS INCOME,
SALES AND GROWTH ARE ALL DESCRIBED IN A JUNE 12 PRESS
CLIPPING COPY OF WHICH BEING AIRPOUCHED FLATIN.
QUESTIONS 2 (A) - WE DOUBT WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO
OBTAIN ANSWERS TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS EXCEPT
TO IDENTIFY DIRECTORS. APPROPRIATE ENTRIES FROM
COMMERCIAL REGISTER NAMING DIRECTORS BEING INCLUDED
PACKAGE TO FLATIN.
QUESTIONS 4,5,6,7 - INCOME AND SALES IN US BY SSIH,
TISSOT AND OMEGA PROBABLY MORE READILY OBTAINABLE
THROUGH THOSE FIRMS' US AFFILIATES. EVEN SHOULD
WE OBTAIN GREEN LIGHT FROM GOS TO CONTACT FIRMS
HERE, DOUBT THAT THEY WOULD REVEAL THIS
INFORMATION TO US.
QUESTION 9 - EMBASSY HAS A CONSIDERABLE FILE OF PRESS
CLIPPINGS AND OTHER INFORMATION ON SSIH. WHETHER
THESE WOULD BE OF VALUE TO ROSENTHAL DEPENDS ON
NATURE AND PURPOSE OF HIS INTEREST.

4. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WE SHOULD APPROACH GOS
WITH VIEW CONTACTING FIRMS DIRECTLY, AND WHETHER
COPIES OF OUR GENERAL PRESS CLIPPINGS NEEDED.
DAVIS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERN03534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740264-0847
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740929/aaaaayip.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAR 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INQUIRY FROM JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
TAGS: BDIS, SZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005